WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method comprising:

an input step of sequentially inputting image data corresponding to plural partial areas obtained by dividing one-page image;

a judgment step of judging whether the input image data corresponds to a margin area or a non-margin area;

a detection step of detecting whether or not the image data corresponding to the non-margin area represents at least a part of a specific image; and

a control step of controlling printing output of the image data corresponding to the non-margin area, in accordance with the detected result in said detection step.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the printing output is performed in the unit of band obtained by dividing one page, and the each partial area corresponds to each band.

3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein when a ratio of margin pixels included in the image represented by the input image data is equal to or larger than a predetermined value, said judgment step judges that the input image data corresponds to the margin area.

4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said detection step detects whether or not predetermined electronic watermark information has been embedded in the image data corresponding to the non-margin area.

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5. A storage medium which computer-readably stores a program including:

an input step of sequentially inputting image data corresponding to plural partial areas obtained by

10 dividing one-page image;

a judgment step of judging whether the input image data corresponds to a margin area or a non-margin area;

a detection step of detecting whether or not the image data corresponding to the non-margin area

15 represents at least a part of a specific image; and

a control step of controlling printing output of the image data corresponding to the non-margin area, in accordance with the detected result in said detection step.

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6. An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for sequentially inputting image data corresponding to plural partial areas obtained by dividing one-page image;

25 judgment means for judging whether the input image data corresponds to a margin area or a non-margin area;

detection means for detecting whether or not the

image data corresponding to the non-margin area

represents at least a part of a specific image; and

control means for controlling printing output of

the image data corresponding to the non-margin area, in

5    accordance with the detected result of said detection

means.


7.   An image processing method comprising:

an input step of inputting image information

10   according to an image;

a block selection step of selecting, in the image

information input in said input step, the image

information of a block having a predetermined size;

a specific image judgment step of judging whether

15   or not the input image corresponds to a specific image

having a predetermined feature, in accordance with the

image information of the block; and

a process step of processing the input image in

accordance with the judged result in said specific

20   image judgment step.


8.   A method according to Claim 7, wherein said

block selection step selects the blocks arranged at

dispersed positions.

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9.   A method according to Claim 7, wherein said

block selection step selects the blocks arranged at

random positions.

10.  A method according to Claim 7, wherein said block selection step selects the blocks arranged at a

5      certain interval.

11.  A method according to Claim 7, wherein, when it is judged in said specific image judgment step that the input image corresponds to the specific image, said

10     process step stops inputting of the image.

12.  A method according to Claim 7, wherein said specific image judgment step judges whether or not the input image corresponds to the specific image, by

15     extracting an electronic watermark of the input image with a software process.

13.  A method according to Claim 7, wherein the image is input by a flatbed scanner.

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14.  A method according to Claim 7, wherein, when it is judged in said specific image judgment step that the input image corresponds to the specific image, said process step does not perform a printer driver process

25     to the input image.

15.  A method according to Claim 7, wherein said

process step displays the judged result in said specific image judgment step.

16. A method according to Claim 7, wherein the blocks are selected like checkers.

17. A method according to Claim 7, wherein said input step inputs the image information of a band area having a predetermined size from the image, and said block selection step selects the image information of the block having the predetermined size within the band area.

18. A storage medium which computer-readably stores a program including:

an input step of inputting image information according to an image;

a block selection step of selecting, in the image information input in said input step, the image information of a block having a predetermined size;

a specific image judgment step of judging whether or not the input image corresponds to a specific image having a predetermined feature, in accordance with the image information of the block; and

a process step of processing the input image in accordance with the judged result in said specific image judgment step.

19.  An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting image information according to an image;

block selection means for selecting, in the image

5   information input by said input means, the image information of a block having a predetermined size;

specific image judgment means for judging whether or not the input image corresponds to a specific image having a predetermined feature, in accordance with the

10   image information of the block; and

process means for processing the input image in accordance with the judged result of said specific image judgment means.

15   20.  An image processing method comprising:

an input step of inputting image information according to an image; and

a judgment step of judging, for each image data corresponding a block area of a predetermined size in

20   the image information input in said input step, whether or not the image data is a part of a specific image,

wherein said judgment step performs the judgment not to the entire image information input in said input step but to a part of the image information.

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21.  A storage medium which computer-readably stores a program including:

an input step of inputting image information
according to an image; and

a judgment step of judging, for each image data
corresponding a block area of a predetermined size in
5    the image information input in said input step, whether
or not the image data is a part of a specific image,

wherein said judgment step performs the judgment
not to the entire image information input in said input
step but to a part of the image information.

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22.    An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting image information
according to an image; and

judgment means for judging, for each image data
15    corresponding a block area of a predetermined size in
the image information input by said input means,
whether or not the image data is a part of a specific
image,

wherein said judgment means performs the judgment
20    not to the entire image information input by said input
means but to a part of the image information.

23.    An image processing method comprising:

an input step of inputting image information
25    according to an image; and

a judgment step of judging, for each image data
corresponding a block area of a predetermined size in

the image information input in said input step, whether

or not the image data is a part of a specific image,

wherein said judgment step performs the judgment

not to the entire image information input in said input

5    step but to a part of the image information, by

periodically judging each block area.


24.   A storage medium which computer-readably

stores a program including:

10    an input step of inputting image information

according to an image; and

a judgment step of judging, for each image data

corresponding a block area of a predetermined size in

the image information input in said input step, whether

15    or not the image data is a part of a specific image,

wherein said judgment step performs the judgment

not to the entire image information input in said input

step but to a part of the image information, by

periodically judging each block area.

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25.   An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting image information

according to an image; and

judgment means for judging, for each image data

25    corresponding a block area of a predetermined size in

the image information input by said input means,

whether or not the image data is a part of a specific

image,

wherein said judgment means performs the judgment not to the entire image information input by said input means but to a part of the image information, by periodically judging each block area.